

Harold Emeanson and Carl Trendler. Would you folks please stand and take a bow. Incidentally, these people will be available the rest of the morning. If any of you have any specific questions, I'm sure they'll be glad to answer them. The member from North Platte, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened carefully to what both Senators Nelson and Wesely were saying, and I have to admit that they do bring out good points. I know Senator Wesely has, for a long time, had a position on retirement issues. And he's being consistent with that, and I appreciate his consistency on that. I know Senator Nelson has some concerns as well, and I know she is not close to the issue, but she just has some concerns that she wants to have answered, I think, at some point. And I'd like to do a little bit of that, if I can. One of the things I think that the members of the body need to do is to try to distinguish just a little bit before we make the stereotype that once we open the door of Pandora's box that everything is going to break loose. I think we, in the body, have always made distinctions, whether it be in tax policy or anything else, and that would be the following. In the State Patrol, the Legislature, not only this session, but last session and previous sessions and I assume upcoming sessions, are asking more and more and more of them, particularly in drug enforcement, particularly in the illegal activities of the state, whether it be in alcohol or what have you, and I think many of us are very aware of what's going on in Panama, and what's going on in some of the drug lords within the world as a whole and the United States. And there's no doubt about it, that drug trafficking is a very, very dangerous business if you're trying to stop it. And many of these people that we're talking about in the bill Senator Haberman brings before us today, is basically saying that if we, the Legislature, are going to pass more legislation that will make these people's lives more at risk, and don't fool yourselves, they are more at risk, we need to recognize that. And I can give you an example upon example of State Patrolmen who have not retired at 25, who have not retired at 30 because they love what they are doing, because it's such a benefit to the people of the State of Nebraska. I also know people like Captain Zarkowski who died in the service of the State Patrol, and I know the benefits and things that they are receiving now, and as widows receiving, is not adequate for them to even have a reasonable retirement or lifestyle. And they gave their life, if you wish, to the people of Nebraska. And I think what Senator Haberman is